

2004

Director's Award



The People's Choice **2004**

Director's Award

In the stormy seas of conducting transportation business, today's leaders act as light keepers. Their hard work and dedication are steadfastly focused on corporate goals which help light the course for all. To commemorate such outstanding achievement, we select just a few special people each year to receive the department's top recognition – the Director's Award.

Nominations for this esteemed award were solicited from all MDOT employees. The nine finalists were recommended by panels comprised of previous Director's Award winners. These finalists were selected from a total of 33 nominations in 10 job categories.

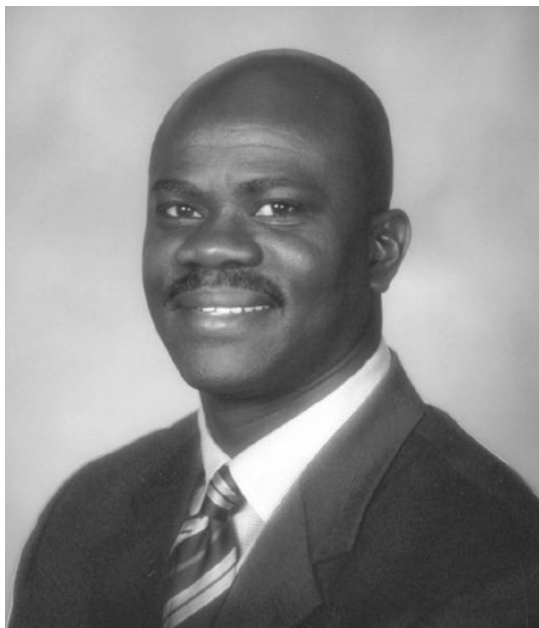
Each year, the choices are extremely difficult to make because of the high caliber of the competition, but we think you'll agree that these nine people represent the best of MDOT and its values. Their work demonstrates the award recipients' concern for quality, teamwork, customer orientation, integrity and pride.

We proudly present them to you. Please read on and get to know MDOT's own light keepers...



Director's Award

Professional
(Supervisor)



Paul C. Ajegba

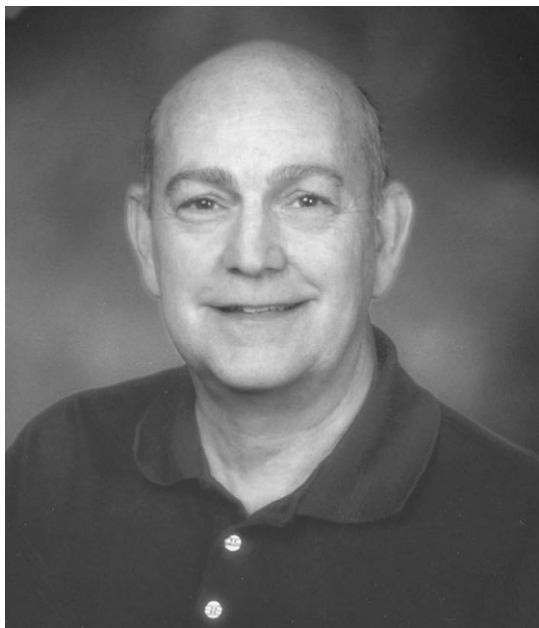
**Operations/Traffic & Safety
University Region**

Paul Ajegba is the Traffic & Safety/Operations engineer in the University Region. Paul's interaction with employees *and* clients is always carried out with the utmost integrity, honesty and respect. Under Paul's strong leadership, the Engineer Development Program (EDP) is one of the best in the state and one that other regions emulate. New engineers in the EDP benefit from a myriad of experiences in important engineering fields. Paul serves as mentor and organizer for the program, taking time with each new engineer. Following the recent early-out retirement, the Tecumseh Field Office was left short-handed and without a licensed engineer. When no one could be found to fill the vacancy, Paul volunteered to take on this added responsibility while retaining all his other duties. EDP engineers were asked to join him in Tecumseh to assist the overburdened office, allowing the staff to process their workload, and provide young engineers an opportunity to gain field experience.



Director's Award

Technical
(Non-supervisor)



Doug Branch

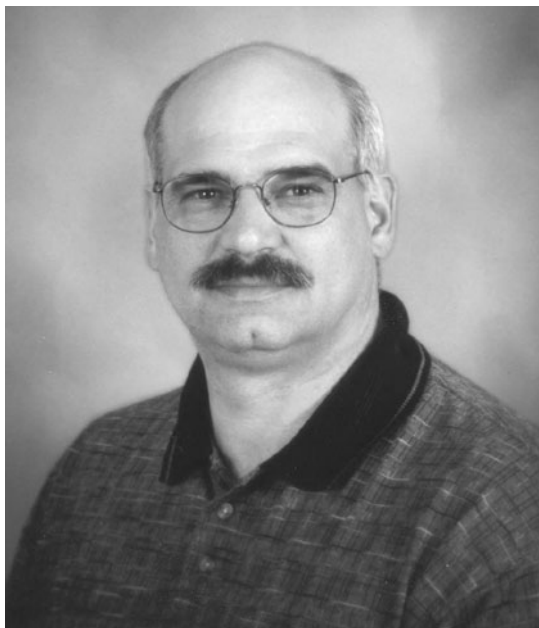
**Construction & Technology Support Area
Highways/Delivery**

Doug Branch is a civil technician specialist with the Construction & Technology (C&T) Support Area in Lansing. In the past decade, C&T has lost a tremendous amount of expertise, practical and technical experience, and knowledge. Many of those significant voids have been voluntarily handled by Doug who has taken on countless challenges. He is a leader and an educator, with outstanding work ethics and skills. He is an organizer of job duties, data files, resources and people – creating a well-integrated operation responsive to customer needs. Through Doug's efforts, MDOT's internal laboratory accreditation maintenance process is now more uniform and organized. His library of technical references is unrivaled and has gained recognition throughout C&T. As a resource to the regions, Doug is known as the *go-to* person for problems involving construction materials and techniques.



Director's Award

Skilled Craft & Labor and Safety
(Supervisor)



John Dault

Maintenance

Ishpeming TSC/Superior Region

John Dault is a transportation maintenance supervisor at the Ishpeming TSC in the Superior Region. He is an enthusiastic leader who sets an example for his crews and the entire department. John's can-do attitude has garnered him the respect of every employee and customer he meets. He is always looking for ways to improve how we do business. His extensive research improved cost efficiency in salt usage at the L'Anse Garage which led to an award from the Salt Institute. John has earned the nickname of "the snowplow guy" and wears it with pride. Last October, John's crews took over around-the-clock snowplowing for Houghton County. When county road commission forces pulled out, John launched into action. Within one month, a garage facility was secured, trucks moved into place, schedules worked out, and crews trained and transferred to create a fully functional garage to serve a county that averages more than 200 inches of snow each winter. Through hard work, dedication, research and team building, John has made the L'Anse and Houghton service facilities shining examples for the rest of the state.



Director's Award

Administrative
Support



Doris A. Elksnis

Administration

Kalamazoo TSC/Southwest Region

Doris Elksnis, an employee who consistently shows initiative beyond her typical job duties, is the administrative assistant for the Kalamazoo TSC. She is always upbeat and attentive to everyone's needs – someone you can count on to go the extra mile for employees and customers alike. Doris helped to develop a region newsletter and has taken on the major responsibility to assure its publication. She is an active member of the Region Strategic Management Team, responsible for publishing and helping to update their strategic work plan. She suggested and initiated team building for the Transportation Service Center staff, even hiring a consultant to work with the team. She is always looking for ways to improve the TSC's processes. Whether she is working with the staff or a transport permit customer, Doris is often the driving force in determining a better system.



Director's Award

Officials and
Administrators



Mark S. Geib

Executive

Kalamazoo TSC/Southwest Region

From resident engineer in Coloma, to Region delivery engineer and now serving as Kalamazoo TSC manager, Mark Geib emulates all of the values important to MDOT. He is ethical, customer-oriented, responsible, resourceful, team-oriented and an excellent leader. Mark is known for making people feel comfortable, so discussions can be productive and beneficial to all parties. He is receptive to new ideas and takes all requests seriously. Mark regularly volunteers for teams and committees which he believes will address problem areas. For example, Mark realized that the TMW Work Element Plan was antiquated and needed revision. He participated on a statewide team that developed and implemented a new program, then took the initiative to help critique and update the program in order to meet the constantly changing needs of the transportation maintenance worker. Mark was instrumental in developing the self-directed maintenance work teams in Southwest Region.



Director's Award

Skilled Craft & Labor and Safety
(Non-supervisor)



Gary L. Rose

Traffic Signals

Maintenance Support Area

Gary Rose is a licensed electrician and serves as the lead worker for a crew of up to three electricians which supports region operations. Gary's duties include inspecting the technical aspects of traffic signal work performed by electrical contractors statewide. One of the reasons MDOT is a leader in the advancement of traffic signal technology is directly related to Gary's continuing input and concern for doing the right thing. He mentors other MDOT inspectors and electrical contractors while fostering a broad knowledge of what constitutes good workmanship throughout the industry. Gary provides technical input in a straightforward manner, focusing on doing the right thing at all times and maintaining a positive attitude. This "can-do" approach promotes team spirit during stressful times and assures quality work. Gary is clearly an employee who goes above and beyond in every aspect of his work.



Director's Award

Professional
(Non-supervisor/non-specialist)



Jan M. Seeger

**Performance Excellence Division
Finance and Administration**

Jan Seeger is responsible for designing, managing and measuring the success of the department's reward and recognition programs, the Education Support Program and the Tuition Reimbursement Program. Jan is recognized as the *go-to* person for information about recognition programs not only at MDOT, but throughout state government, as MDOT's programs are considered the most comprehensive. She often steps outside her regular job description to volunteer for special assignments, including serving as the first customer service representative for the first three pilot TSCs. She worked tirelessly to build relationships with local partners, giving presentations and leaving a positive impression of MDOT with the public. She facilitated the governor's Vision and Values training and the 2003 Transportation Summit. She is often called upon by the Executive team to help with special recognitions and, very recently, the revitalization of the Transpo Club. Because Jan is so dedicated to Team MDOT, special assignments seem commonplace to her.



Director's Award

Professional
(Non-supervisor/specialist)



Z. Kris Wisniewski

**Intermodal Policy Division
Transportation Planning**

Kris Wisniewski serves as the federal/binational policy specialist in Planning's Intermodal Policy Division. In his dual role, he is responsible for analyzing federal legislation, including reauthorization legislation, and for MDOT's border policy work. Kris has been instrumental during the reauthorization process, initiating a proactive effort to work with the full spectrum of stakeholders to identify a unified position for Michigan. He also helped organize and motivate the multi-state SHARE coalition (State Highway Alliance for Real Equity) to help Michigan and other donor states bring more money home for transportation. Kris's role in the arena of border policy has expanded significantly since September 11, 2001. He has worked tirelessly with a wide variety of stakeholders on both sides of the border to keep Michigan's border traffic moving. To broaden his understanding and expertise, Kris volunteered to serve as project manager for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza study. His professionalism, knowledge and strong teamwork have been instrumental in seeking the best solutions for MDOT and for Michigan.



Director's Award

Technical
(Supervisor)



Benito (Benny) Zamora

Bridge Design

Design Support Area

Benny Zamora is a civil technician supervisor in Bridge Design. He directs the unit's drafting activities in the preparation of bridge plans and other major structures. 2003 was a bittersweet year in Design, as Lansing Road Design staff were deployed to the regions and TSCs. Benny was reassigned to a bridge unit while he continued to work with the deployed Road Design unit. Throughout the years, Benny assisted the division by being a member of the drafting committee, performing special assignments for negligence cases, recruiting for the department, and assisting on special projects. He is a great team player and always looking for a better way to do things. A positive person with an upbeat attitude, Benny is a compassionate mentor who is always willing to go the extra mile. He strives for uniformity so there is consistency in the quality of plans. He doesn't stop at his own work, but often helps others to complete their assignments. Benny is dedicated to producing quality work *and* to the people he helps.



Director's Award

Runners-up

2004 Director's Award Runners-up

Dean Aberly	Superior Region, Crystal Falls TSC
David Baker	Multi-Modal, Airport Division, Lansing
Charles Broderick	Southwest Region, Coloma TSC
Steve Burkholder	North Region, Marion Garage
Linda Durfee	Bureau of Development, Design Support Area, Lansing
Clyde Furney	Southwest Region, Paw Paw Repair Facility
Dave Geiger	Bay Region, Executive
Mark Grennell	Multi-Modal, Airport Division, Lansing
Yvonne Guerra	University Region, Jackson TSC
Patty Heslip	Superior Region, Executive
Duane Johnson	Multi-Modal, Passenger Transportation Division, Lansing
Polly Kent	Bureau of Transportation Planning, Policy Division, Lansing
Robert Kinsella	Superior Region, International Bridge
Mark Kleikamp	Superior Region, Escanaba TSC
Germaine Kowatch	Operations Administrative Services, Lansing
Connie Morrison	Bureau of Transportation Planning, Policy Division, Lansing
Sonja Scheurer	Operations Administrative Services, Lansing
Steve Shepler	University Region, Lansing TSC
Kathy Teitsma	Grand Region, Executive
Roger Till	Bureau of Delivery, Construction and Technology Support Area, Lansing
Julie VanPortfliet	Superior Region, Construction
Greg Vanis	University Region, Brighton TSC
Ron Vibbert	Bureau of Transportation Planning, Asset Management Section, Lansing
Brian Whitfield	Bureau of Finance and Administration, Technological Services, Graphics Unit, Lansing



Director's Award

Previous Recipients

*The Director's Award began in 1987 and since then
has identified many of MDOT's finest employees.*

2003

Mark Barrone, Professional (supervisor)
Kurt R. Fritz, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety
(non-supervisor)
Jeff Hunt, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety (supervisor)
Richard L. Rang, Technical (supervisor)
Jill Anne Scriver, Professional
(non-supervisor/non-specialist)
Michael Storch, Technical (non-supervisor)

2002

Robin Lester, Administrative Support
Wayne E. Roe Jr., Officials and Administrators
Janet M. Brown, Paraprofessional
Marlyn E. Stroud, Professional (non-supervisor)
Alan R. Friend, Professional (supervisor)
Chris Rosselit, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety
(non-supervisor)
Thomas C. Irvin, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety
(supervisor)
Jack G. Briggs, Technical (non-supervisor)
Sue Haugen, Technical (supervisor)

2001

Linda Kish, Administrative Support (non-supervisor)
Mark Chaput, Official/Administrator (supervisor)
Robert Zelski, Professional (non-supervisor)
Randy Collier, Professional (supervisor)
Pandora Chiddister, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety
(non-supervisor)
Michael Metiva, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety
(supervisor)
Tom Fox, Technical (non-supervisor)

2000

Glenda Feeley, Paraprofessional (non-supervisor)
Raymond Roberts, Official/Administrator (supervisor)
Dorene Keyes, Technical (non-supervisor)
James Green, Technical (supervisor)
Bill Vogt, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety (non-supervisor)
Chuck Mannor, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety
(supervisor)
Tammy Kirschenbauer, Professional (non-supervisor)
David Spangenberg, Professional (supervisor)
Connie Corbin, Clerical/Secretarial (non-supervisor)

1999

Mara Rozentals, Paraprofessional (non-supervisor)
Kirk Steudle, Official/Administrator (supervisor)
Marc Labar, Technical (supervisor)
Theresa Brockway, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety
(non-supervisor)
David Budd, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety (supervisor)
Daniel Kari, Professional (non-supervisor)
Drew Buckner, Professional (supervisor)
Christine Helmer, Clerical/Secretarial (non-supervisor)

1998

Terri Russell, Paraprofessional
Hank Lotoszinski, Official/Administrator
Ronald Hafner, Technical
Mike Flint, Labor/Safety Services
Greg Johnson, Professional
Joyann Kime, Professional
Dan Smith, Skilled Craft Worker
Luane Feldpausch, Clerical/Secretarial

1997

Jill Adams, Paraprofessional
Greg Nofs, Technical
Tony Kratoofil, Professional
Margaret Mudrovich, Professional
Sue Ann Rummel, Professional
Mark A. Lester, Skilled Craft Worker
Therese Binkley, Clerical/Secretarial

1996

Linda Clark-Uhl, Paraprofessional
Terry Gotts, Official/Administrator
Richard Peterson, Technical
Jim Jersey, Professional
Bonnie Towslee, Professional
Leon Hummel, Skilled Craft Worker
Bonnie Cadaret, Clerical/Secretarial

1995

Joina Norris, Paraprofessional
John Kanillopoolos, Official/Administrator
Bruce Taavola, Technical
Michael Brimacombe, Labor/Safety Services
Patricia Collins, Professional
Mike Irwin, Professional
Tim Graham, Skilled Craft Worker
Gary Rogers, Skilled Craft Worker
Pat McHugh, Clerical/Secretarial

1994

Lupe Castellon, Paraprofessional
Erma Holton, Paraprofessional
Susan Mortel, Official/Administrator
William C. Turner, Official/Administrator
Robert Ranck, Sr., Technical
Gary Jewell, Labor/Safety Services
William Sharpe, Labor/Safety Services
Jerry Becker, Professional
Jack Benac, Professional
Pete Porciello, Professional
Steven Poyhonen, Skilled Craft Worker
Mary Kay Trierweiler, Clerical/Secretarial

Previous Recipients continued on next page.

1993

Betsy Brandt, Paraprofessional
Louis Lambert, Official/Administrator
Janet D'Ignazio, Official/Administrator
John F. Lopez, Official/Administrator
Gerald B. LaMere, Technical
Judy Erickson, Labor/Safety Services
Kay D. McNeal, Professional
Leo E. DeFrain, Professional
Edward R. Chantiny, Skilled Craft Worker
Teresa Knapp, Clerical/Secretarial

1992

Julie Heiss, Paraprofessional
Thomas Shawver, Official/Administrator
Thomas McKiernan, Technical
Jim Easterling, Labor/Safety Services
Ronald Zaskowski, Professional
Harold Martinson, Skilled Craft Worker
Ronda Kritas, Clerical/Secretarial

1991

Doris Anderson, Paraprofessional
Susan E. Hohl, Official/Administrator
Carol Kach, Technical
Glenn C. Mawer, Labor/Safety Services
Terrance W. Butts, Professional
Jerry Rademacher, Skilled Craft Worker
Susan J. Stiffler, Clerical/Secretarial

1990

Patricia Hatfield, Paraprofessional
James Burge, Official/Administrator
Roger Bater, Technical
Robert Sanborn, Technical
Dan Langenbacher, Labor/Safety Services
Steve Cook, Professional
Monty Norris, Professional
Arthur Tousignant, Skilled Craft Worker
James Martz, Clerical/Secretarial
Ruby Brown, Clerical/Secretarial

1989

Judy Browning, Professional
Sherry Cummins, Clerical/Secretarial
Morris Hall, Labor/Safety Services
Gary Ross, Technical
Jerry Seward, Officials and Administrators
Patricia Smith, Clerical/Secretarial
James Witgen, Skilled Crafts

1988

G. Robert Adams, Official and Administrators
Donald Derke, Technical
Dan DeYonke, Professional
Randalyn Sue Godley, Clerical/Secretarial
Mike Walimaki, Technical
Ken Whelton, Skills Craft
Ho-Lum Wong, Professional

1987

William D. Bullen, Professional
Kathy Broessel, Clerical/Secretarial
Ponda "Pete" Dines, Labor/Safety Services
Tom Ferrigan, Skilled Crafts
Jim Gruggett, Technical
Edna Jones-Webb, Clerical/Secretarial
Donald Orne, Officials and Administrators

Note:

In 1999, Skilled Craft & Labor/Safety Services were merged.



*MDOT is improving Michigan's total transportation system by
efficiently delivering transportation products, services, and information.*

